

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

1960 April 28

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Medical Genetics  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

An undergraduate student of mine wrote the enclosed analysis of the alternatives in extra-nuclear heredity, apparently as the outcome of his own thinking about some library reading he did in Commoner's lab last summer. It seemed to me very Lederbergian in its reasoning, and I wondered if you would be good enough to criticize it for us. I would appreciate your advice on the following questions, since I am far from expert in these matters:

Is it new?

Is the reasoning well-founded and "reasonable"?

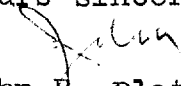
Would it be interesting to professionals in the field?

If so, where would be the best place to publish it?

(I am considering sending it to Ingle's "Perspectives in Biology and Medicine", but a refereed Journal might make more important people read it and take it more seriously, if it is worthy of that kind of treatment).

Thanks for any help you can give.

Yours sincerely,

  
John R. Platt  
Professor of Physics

JRP:abh

P.S.-- How's cosmic dust these days? I had a minor triumph among the astronomers at Tucson a couple of months ago with my 10-angstrom C,N,O,H-particles.